(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) There is adequate production of Anti-Rabies Vaccine in the country and the vaccine is being used in all the States for free administration to patients of dog bite in all Government hospitals.

Convention of tobacco control in Geneva

3177. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India participated in the world first international treaty on health *i.e.* Convention on Tobacco Control recently concluded in Geneva;

(b) if so, the main points agreed to at the meet; and

(c) what sincere steps are being taken to get implemented the anti-smoking part especially with regard to banning of selling cigarettes to minors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) India participated in the sixth meeting of the International Negotiating Body (INB) on the Framework Convention of Tobacco Control (FCTC) held at Geneva during 17—28 February, 2003. The said meeting agreed on various issues which, *inter-alia*, include measures relating to the reduction of demand for tobacco, measures relating to the reduction of the supply of tobacco, protection of the environment and health of persons.

(c) "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2003" was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001. The Bill alongwith certain amendments was considered and passed by the House on 9th April, 2003 and will now be taken up for consideration in the Lok Sabha. It envisages discouraging the use of tobacco and tobacco products by banning advertisement of tobacco products, prohibition of smoking in public places and ban on sale of tobacco products to minors in addition to other control measures.